

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3207

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1098

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, CA

SUBJECT: CANADIAN ROLLING STOCK

IN U.S.- I

PASS CHAIRMAN, INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF EXCHANGE WHICH OCCURRED IN
HOUSE OF COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD APRIL 15:

BEGIN TEXT

STEPS TO OBTAIN RETURN OF BOXCARS FROM UNITED
STATES- POSSIBLE INCREASE IN PER DIEM RATE
MR. FRANK HOWARD (N.D.P., SKEENA): MR. SPEAKER, MY
QUESTION IS FOR THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT. IN THE
CONTINUING SAGA OF THE SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY CARS, AND
IN THE LIGHT OF INFORMATION GIVEN RECENTLY THAT THE
SHORTAGE OF RAILWAY CARS HAS DETAINED THE MOVEMENT OF
LUMBER CAUSING AN INCREASE IN THE PRICE OF HOUSING
AND OTHER BUILDINGS, NOT MENTIONING OTHER MATERIALS,
CAN THE MINISTER TELL THE HOUSE WHAT STEPS HE IS
TAKING NOW TO ASSURE RETURN TO CANADA OF CANADIAN
RAILWAY CARS THAT ARE KEPT IN THE UNITED STATES AS
WAREHOUSES THUS DENYING CANADA USE OF THEM? CAN
THE MINISTER TELL THE HOUSE WHAT STEPS HE HAS TAKEN
TO GET THEM BACK?

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HON. JEAN MARCHAND (MINISTER OF TRANSPORT): MR.

SPEAKER, LAST WEEK I MET WITH THE RAILWAYS AND THE SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION IN ORDER TO SEE IF THERE WERE THINGS WE COULD DO THAT WE WERE NOT DOING IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FREIGHT CARS IN CANADA. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT WAS SUGGESTED WAS THAT WE GET IN TOUCH WITH THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT TO SEE IF THEY COULD EXERCISE PRESSURE ON THE RAILWAYS TO HAVE THOSE CARS SENT BACK TO CANADA. WE ARE GOING TO DO THIS THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

MR. HOWARD: A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION. RATHER THAN RELYING ON THE DIPLOMACY OR THE LACK OF IT, WHICHEVER IT MAY BE, ON THE PART OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, DOES THE MINISTER THINK THAT IT MIGHT BE MORE APPROPRIATE TO RAISE THE PER DIEM RATE CHARGED TO AMERICAN RAILROADS SO THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE GIFT OF CANADIAN BOXCARS FOR \$7 A DAY, TO USE THEM AS WAREHOUSES? WOULD THAT NOT BE A MORE DIRECT WAY?

MR. MARCHAND: MR. SPEAKER, THIS IS ANOTHER WAY BUT THE PROBLEM IS TO KNOW WHAT THE IMPACT WOULD BE ON PRICES IN CANADIAN MARKETS ABROAD, IF YOU HAVE AN IDEA OF THIS. WE WOULD LOSE CUSTOMERS BECAUSE OF THE NEW PRICE TO BE PAID BY CUSTOMERS, THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT. END TEXT.

2. EMBASSY COMMENTS FOLLOW IN SEPTTEL.
PORTER

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION

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NNN

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